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26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

REGIONAL WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3226**

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September 17, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Afghanistan Evacuation and Resettlement Assistance**

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I write in strong support of the Administration's Fiscal Year 2022 supplemental funding request for Afghanistan Evacuation and Resettlement Assistance<sup>1</sup> and urge the House Committee on Appropriations to support the necessary funding and language needed to address the estimated influx of 50,000 Afghan evacuees arriving in the United States for fear of persecution from the Taliban.

In July, Congress passed overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation to expand the number of Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) available to Afghan nationals, as well as expand eligibility for the SIV program. While some Afghan nationals will enter the United States through the SIV program, the great majority will be admitted on the basis of humanitarian parole. This extraordinary measure, used to guarantee the immediate safety of evacuees, does not provide Afghan nationals the same level of assistance afforded to other refugees such as food, housing, and health care benefits. As Congress did for Cuban and Haitian entrants in the 1980s, legislation is urgently needed to give Afghan parolees access to the full host of services and support provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Critical resources are needed for federal officials to carry out the effective resettlement of Afghan nationals while preserving ORR's operational ability to serve current and future refugee populations – funding is needed to provide these transitional and supportive services such as

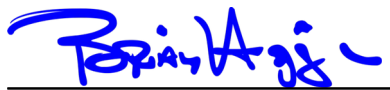
<sup>1</sup> FY 2022 Continuing Resolution (CR) Appropriations Issues (anomalies required for a short-term CR), The White House [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CR\\_Package\\_9-7-21.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CR_Package_9-7-21.pdf)

housing, health care, preventative screening, and transportation. To this effect, we strongly support robust upfront funding to ORR and the Administration's request of at least \$1.6 billion to the Refugee and Entrant Assistance account, \$8 million to the Children and Families Services Programs account, and \$63 million for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grants. The Administration's request is explicit, without these resources the United States will not be able to provide the English language classes, job training, medical assistance, and other integrative services which are expected to occur and necessary to provide.

Consistent with our nation's history as a land of opportunity, this crisis gives Afghan nationals the chance to become new Americans. we support the Administration's request to give the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to grant Afghan nationals arriving in the United States between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022 lawful permanent resident status. With such status, newly settled Afghans will have the opportunity to build a life for themselves and their children here in the United States, just as our ancestors did before us. I strongly encourage the committee to provide U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) the full \$193 million requested to support the adjudication requirements of this request.

We need swift and urgent action from the United States Congress to fulfill our nation's promise to the Afghan nationals who worked and served alongside our servicemembers in Afghanistan. Thank you for your attention to this most urgent matter.

Sincerely,



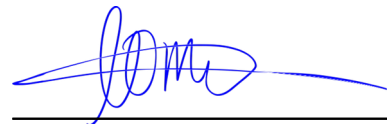
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



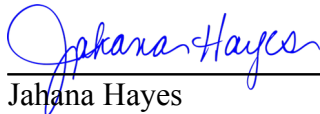
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



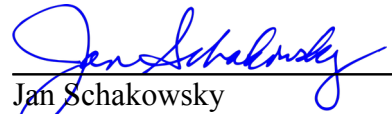
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



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Peter Welch  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Marie Newman  
Member of Congress




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Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



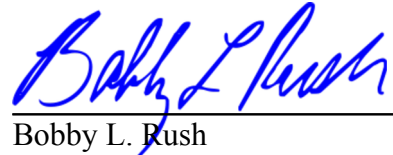
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Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Bobby L. Rush  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



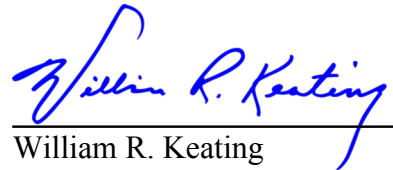
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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Al Green  
Member of Congress



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William R. Keating  
Member of Congress